5a.

A Word to Smokers

(about nonsmokers and anti-smokers)

We want to make a distinction between nonsmokers and anti-smokers.

About 60% of the adult population doesn't smoke; 40% do. So nonsmokers are all around us: friends, relatives, co-workers, acquaintances. In general, smokers get along very well with nonsmokers.

Anti-smokers are a breed apart. Nearly every smoker has experienced, at a minimum, the anti-smoker's exaggerated cough, annoyed glare or other attempt to make him feel uncomfortable. It is their established and openly-avowed policy to "humiliate," to "harass" and to "mortify" smokers. And operating in groups, they can be truly "dangerous to health" -- and freedom -- not only of smokers but of nonsmokers as well.

Some examples, taken at random:

1. A nationally-known TV and film star was prevented from going on stage by a band of anti-smokers threatening violence because the star frequently smoked on stage. The occasion was a benefit to raise funds for crippled children.

2. The executive director on one anti-smoking group has announced plans to build an "army" of 2,000,000 militants who will go about "zapping" smokers in the face with spray from aerosol cans.

"You don't know what a rewarding feeling it is," he is quoted as saying, "the first time you spray a smoker in the face. It's hard to work yourself up to the first spray. It takes guts. But once you've broken the ice, it's easy. And you feel exhilarated."

Such people clearly do not speak for the great majority of nonsmokers. But the danger is that some legislators will think that they do.

1005047797

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/hrlk0000

"When I went to the legislature," says one anti-smoking lobbyist, "they thought I had about 10,000 people behind me. That was a laugh. It was just me. I had the law passed by myself."

If it is a "laugh," it is a joke on nonsmokers as well as smokers, for it is nonsmokers as well as smokers who ultimately pay the cost of foolish laws and regulations, and of repression of the rights of any group.

And it is up to all of us -- nonsmokers and smokers alike -- to speak up in voices at least as clear as those of the anti-smokers against repression and harassment of whatever kind.

The Tobacco Institute

Freedom of choice is the best choice.

1005047798

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/hrkk0000